

#3/Pre Amend A  
L. Nelson  
3/20/01  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicants:** David D. Demarest, et al.

**Examiner:** C. Dexter

**Serial No.:** To be assigned

**Art Unit:** 3724

**Filed:** Herewith

**Docket:** 8924ZA

**For:** SUTURE CUTTING SYSTEM

**Dated:** February 5, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In connection with the above-identified patent application, kindly enter the following preliminary amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After the TITLE please insert the following:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION:

*A1*  
*BD*  
The present application is a divisional of copending application Serial Number  
*now U.S. Patent 6,206,677,*  
08/804,478 filed February 21, 1997, which is a CIP of Serial Number 08/181,595 filed January  
*now abandoned*  
13, 1994.--

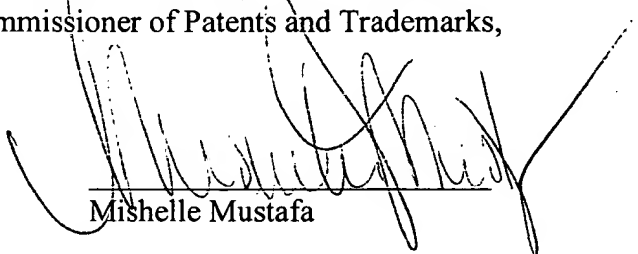
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Dated: February 5, 2001

  
Michelle Mustafa